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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 06/16/2009

Pauley Petersen & Erickson  
Suite 365  
2800 West Higgins Road  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

EXAMINER

BOYCE, ANDRE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/791,563

03/02/2004

Jonathan Jutsen

OTFC-101-CIP

3115

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTERIZED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	09/16/2009

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

#### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590 06/16/2009

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Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/791,563 03/02/2004 Jonathan Jutsen OTFC-101-CIP 3115

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTERIZED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional YES \$755 \$300 \$0 \$1055 09/16/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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BOYCE, ANDRE D 3623 705-007000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

BOYCE, ANDRE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2009

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1072 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1072 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/791,563	JUTSEN, JONATHAN	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Andre Boyce	3623	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed 2/9/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 13-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                        | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

/Andre Boyce/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed February 9, 2009. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-16 are pending.
2. The previously pending objection to the specification has been withdrawn.  
The previously pending objection to claim 5 has been withdrawn.  
The previously rejection to claims 1-8 and 13-16 under 35 USC 101 have been withdrawn.

***Terminal Disclaimer***

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on October 24, 2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of USPN 6,701,298 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

***Examiner's Amendment***

4. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Erickson on June 8, 2009. The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

- 9. (Canceled)
- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Canceled)
- 12. (Canceled)

***Reasons for Allowance***

5. Claims 1-8 and 13-16 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to independent claims 1 and 7, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, using a defined set of characteristics, in the automated data processing device, for each of a plurality of levels of achievement to derive a diagnosis of maintenance management effectiveness, said diagnosis comprising a plurality of effectiveness elements and a level of achievement for each said effectiveness element and allowing quantification of a status of maintenance management practices, determining a relative priority for taking action for each of the effectiveness elements using an element gap analysis wherein a higher priority is accorded to those effectiveness elements in which a gap

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between a current practice and a best practice is the largest, and determining at least one critical element for action based upon the relative priority for taking action.

With respect to independent claim 13, none of the prior art of record, taken individually or in any combination, teach inter alia, presenting a set of queried actions, in the automated data processing device, for each of a plurality of levels of achievement for each of a plurality of effectiveness elements; using responses to the set of queried actions for each effectiveness element to prioritize the plurality of effectiveness elements to define at least one critical element, wherein the prioritization comprises an element gap analysis of each effectiveness element so that a higher priority is accorded to those effectiveness elements in which a gap between a current practice and a best practice is the largest; diagnosing a maintenance management effectiveness for each effectiveness element wherein the level of achievement is defined by a user with respect to each effectiveness element, the user providing a priority to achievement of each effectiveness element; and providing an indication of effectiveness elements for which critical action is required.

7. The prior art references most closely resembling Applicant's claimed invention are Johnson (USPN 5,758,331), Basim Al-Najjar (Total Quality Maintenance: An Approach for Continuous Reduction in Costs of Quality Products), and Raouf et al (Total Maintenance Management: A Systematic Approach).

Johnson discloses receiving and storing information related to a utility company's services and conservation programs. A user can dynamically generate various

proposals to show customers how to reduce consumption of utilities and thus save cost. An inventory module allows a user to enter into the database of information identifying and related to customer's inventory. The system may then use this information in calculating the effects of various inventory on consumption and cost of products and services provided by the utility. A conservation program module stores information related to a utility company's energy conservation programs.

Basim Al-Najjar discloses benchmarking in maintenance is the search for the best result gained by a competitor using approximately the same machinery which ultimately lead to adopting a more cost-effective strategy.

Raouf et al disclose benchmarking in maintenance in the search for the best maintenance practice which will lead to exceptional maintenance performance through implementation of best strategies, and prioritizing various maintenance activities within a company including areas which need not be benchmarked.

However, none of the cited references disclose using a defined set of characteristics, in the automated data processing device, for each of a plurality of levels of achievement to derive a diagnosis of maintenance management effectiveness, said diagnosis comprising a plurality of effectiveness elements and a level of achievement for each said effectiveness element and allowing quantification of a status of maintenance management practices, determining a relative priority for taking action for each of the effectiveness elements using an element gap analysis wherein a higher priority is accorded to those effectiveness elements in which a gap



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between a current practice and a best practice is the largest, and determining at least one critical element for action based upon the relative priority for taking action.

Moreover, none of the cited references disclose presenting a set of queried actions, in the automated data processing device, for each of a plurality of levels of achievement for each of a plurality of effectiveness elements; using responses to the set of queried actions for each effectiveness element to prioritize the plurality of effectiveness elements to define at least one critical element, wherein the prioritization comprises an element gap analysis of each effectiveness element so that a higher priority is accorded to those effectiveness elements in which a gap between a current practice and a best practice is the largest; diagnosing a maintenance management effectiveness for each effectiveness element wherein the level of achievement is defined by a user with respect to each effectiveness element, the user providing a priority to achievement of each effectiveness element; and providing an indication of effectiveness elements for which critical action is required.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Basim Al-Najjar (Total Quality Maintenance: An Approach for Continuous Reduction in Costs of Quality Products) discloses the importance of total quality maintenance.

-Raouf et al (Total Maintenance Management: A Systematic Approach) disclose a systematic approach to total maintenance management, including measuring the current effectiveness of a maintenance system

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (571)272-6726. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on (571) 272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andre Boyce/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623  
June 9, 2009